

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: ASSAULT ON DEPENDENT CHILD (MILES, ELIZABETH)

1. MFA PROTOCOL SECOND SECRETARY SEMENOV CALLED SECOND SECRETARY LEMMON TO MFA DEC. 10 TO PROVIDE ORAL RESPONSE TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 1684 OF NOV. 18 DEALING WITH ATTACK ON ELIZABETH MILES, DAUGHTER OF SECOND SECRETARY RICHARD MILES.

2. SEMENOV EXPRESSED MINISTRY'S PROFOUND REGRETS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT AND CONDEMNED THE "IMMORAL BEHAVIOR OF THIS WOMAN" -- PRESUMABLY THE STREET SWEEPER REFERRED TO IN EMBASSY NOTES NOS. 1437 AND 1684. HE ADVISED EMBOFF THAT THE WOMAN HAD BEEN "SERIOUSLY WARNED" ABOUT HER FUTURE ACTIONS AND "COUNSELED TO IMPROVE HER ATTITUDE" TOWARDS THE CHILDREN. HOWEVER, "WHILE CHILDREN WILL BE CHILDREN" AND "THE FAULT OF BOTH SIDES IS NOT FIFTY-FIFTY," THE PARENTS DO HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S ACTIONS IN SUCH MATTERS.

3. EMBOFF EXPRESSED THE EMBASSY'S AND THE PARENTS' APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTIONS TAKEN THUS FAR BY THE MINISTRY BUT RESERVED COMMENT ON WHETHER FURTHER MEASURES WOULD BE DESIRED. WHILE NOTING THAT OF COURSE PARENTS HAVE A GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR, EMBOFF STRONGLY REJECTED THE ATTEMPT TO SHIFT PART OF THE ONUS FROM THE RUSSIAN WOMAN INVOLVED AND REITERATED THE EXTREME SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE EMBASSY VIEWED THIS MATTER. A NEAR-TRAGEDY HAD OCCURRED AND, ASIDE FROM THE PHYSICAL WOUNDS - TWIGS PIERCING ELIZABETH'S TONGUE AND CUTTING HER FACE NEAR THE EYES - SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS REMAIN. THE PARENTS REMAINED MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THEIR CHILDREN AND THE FEARFUL ENVIRONMENT CREATED BY THE STREET-

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SWEEPER'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE VICINITY OF THE

SERPUKHOVSKIY VAL COMPLEX, AND WHICH NECESSITATED ONE OF THE PARENT'S PRESENCE EVERY MORNING TO WAIT WITH THE CHILDREN FOR THE SCHOOL BUS.

4. SEMENOV INQUIRED AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS THE EMBASSY WANTED THE MINISTRY TO TAKE. EMBOFF DECLINED "AT THIS TIME" TO RECOMMEND SPECIFIC STEPS PENDING A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION WITH THE PARENTS. SEMENOV REPEATED THE MINISTRY'S REGRETS AND REITERATED THE "SERIOUS WARNING" GIVEN THE STREETSWEeper.

5. COMMENT: AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARENTS, AND UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS ANY OBJECTIONS, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO REQUEST THAT MFA PROTOCOL HAVE STREETSWEeper TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER LOCALE AND ENSURE THAT A MILITIAMAN IS POSTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHILDREN'S BUS STOP DURING THE MORNING PICKUP (ABOUT 20 MINUTES ON SCHOOL DAYS). EMBASSY WILL ALSO REQUEST WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM MFA WHEN THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.
MATLOCK

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